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Letter dated 1 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group in New York, to transmit herewith the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 September 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 45, 48, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 (p), 62, 63, 65, 68, 71, 75, 76, 78, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89, 91, 96, 97, 100, 103, 104, 105, 146, 147 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

United Nations, New York
28 September 2004
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The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) held their Annual Coordination Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 September 2004, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gül, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and adopted the following:

1. The Meeting *emphasized* its strong conviction about the central role that the United Nations, as the only universal multilateral organization, can play in strengthening global coordination and cooperation in dealing with global challenges and threats, and *reaffirmed* the determination of the OIC Member States to actively work with the United Nations along this line in accordance with its Charter.

2. The Meeting *reaffirmed* its resolve to contribute effectively to the maintenance and promotion of regional and global peace and security, to preserve peace and security of all OIC Member States, to reject all campaigns of hostility and hate against Islam and the Islamic countries, and to extend its full support and solidarity to Islamic countries facing external pressure, threats and interference in their domestic affairs in accordance with the United Nations Charter, and *called for* the settlement of disputes between States by dialogue on the basis of international law and the respect for the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of the States. It also *emphasized* the need for greater cooperation, coordination and consultation and for a common stance in international fora.

3. The Meeting *underlined* the importance of global peace, prosperity, security and stability in an environment of change in the international order and *stressed* the value of dialogue, understanding and mutual respect among religions and cultures. In this context, the Meeting *reaffirmed* the commitments made by the OIC Member States in accordance with the Putrajaya Declaration adopted at the Tenth Islamic Summit

Conference to continue efforts aimed at strengthening their bonds of unity and cohesion, expanding cooperation in all areas, and participating collectively in the global decision-making process. It also *recalled* the commitment of the 31st Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) that the OIC Member States would assist each other in their progress and reform, which should come from within, and the OIC, as an institution, would also develop ways and means for supporting progress in a collective framework.

4. The Meeting *underscored* the necessity for a viable strategy which should aim at creating and promoting tolerance and harmony among different religions and civilizations. The Meeting also *highlighted* the strength of the spiritual values of the Muslim World with which the universal values of freedom, democracy, peace and prosperity are in harmony. In this regard, the Meeting *recalled* the following initiatives from the Islamic world: Dialogue among Civilizations-Iran; Religious and Cultural Understanding, Harmony and Cooperation-Pakistan; International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010-Bangladesh; Seminar on Islam and the West-Qatar; OIC-EU Joint Forum "Civilization and Harmony: The Political Dimension"-Turkey; the International Conference of Islamic Scholars-Indonesia; and the International Conference on Islamic-Christian Dialogue, 2006- Senegal. In this connection, the Meeting *looked forward* to the convening of the Second Meeting of the OIC-EU Joint Forum on 4 and 5 October 2004 in Istanbul, which may contribute significantly to fostering global dialogue and cooperation, and *called on* all participants to attend the Forum at Ministerial level.

5. The Meeting *paid* special tribute to the President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf for his timely and important initiative on "Enlightened Moderation", which was adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference through its resolution 45/10-P(IS). It *urged* Member States to submit their nominees to the Chairman of the Islamic Summit Conference as soon as possible to expedite the constitution and working of the Commission of Eminent Persons as envisaged in resolution 45/10-P(IS). The Meeting also *appreciated* the efforts of the Government of Pakistan for inviting Islamic scholars to an International Seminar on OIC, held in Islamabad on 1-2 June 2004, to present a set of recommendations for consideration of the Commission of Eminent Persons.

6. The Meeting *reaffirmed* the centrality of the cause *of* Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the whole Islamic Ummah. It *affirmed* the Arab nature of East Jerusalem and the need to defend the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places. It *reiterated* its condemnation

of Israeli attempts to change the status, demographic composition and the character of the City.

7. The Meeting *reaffirmed* its principled support for the right of the Palestinian people to national independence and the exercise of sovereignty in their State, Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. It *reaffirmed* the rights of the Palestine refugees in accordance with international law and General Assembly resolution 194(III) of 11December 1948. The Meeting *reiterated* its solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle led by their legitimate national leadership.

8. The Meeting strongly *condemned* Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif. It *condemned* in particular the wilful killing of Palestinian civilians, including extra-judicial executions; the wanton destruction of homes, infrastructure and agricultural lands; the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians; and the imposition of collective punishment on the entire Palestinian population, including severe restrictions of the movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian, and prolonged curfews.

9. The Meeting *condemned* the more than two and a half year confinement of President Yasser Arafat by the occupying Power and the repeated threats against his life, safety and wellbeing. It *expressed* solidarity with the democratically-elected President of the Palestinian Authority and *stressed* the necessity for ending both the confinement and threats, which are contrary to the right of the Palestinian people to freely choose their own leader and are severely hampering the proper functioning of the Palestinian Authority program in process.

10. The Meeting also strongly *condemned* the illegal Israeli policy and practice of settler colonialism, as well as the building of the expansionist wall, which has involved the confiscation of thousands of more dunums of Palestinian land, the isolation of dozens of Palestinian villages, towns and cities and the extensive destruction of property and the livelihoods of thousands of Palestinians.

11. The Meeting strongly *welcomed* the Advisory Opinion, rendered on 9 July 2004, by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", which represents an historic opportunity for return to the rule of law in all efforts to peacefully address the question of Palestine and resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Meeting further *welcomed*

the adoption of resolution ES-10/15, on 20 July 2004, by the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, and *stressed* the importance of respect for the compliance with both the Advisory Opinion and resolution ES-10/15 by Israel, the occupying Power, and by Member States.

12. The Meeting further *took note* of the negative and defiant response by Israel to the Advisory Opinion and its declarations to continue constructing the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem. The Meeting thus *called for* the following specific actions:

a) At the United Nations, further measures should be *taken*, in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of resolution ES-10/15, and also *called on* the Security Council to undertake its responsibilities by adopting a clear resolution and undertaking necessary measures in this regard. The Secretary-General of the United Nations should also *expedite* the work with regard to the request made by the General Assembly in resolution ES-10/15 to establish a register of damage caused by the Wall and to ensure that the positions and documents of the UN Secretariat are fully consistent with the Advisory Opinion.

b) With regard to Member States, the Meeting *called upon* them to undertake measures, including by means of legislation, collectively, regionally and individually, to prevent any products of the illegal Israeli settlements from entering their markets consistent with the obligations under international treaties, to decline entry to Israeli settlers and to impose sanctions against companies and entities involved in the construction of the wall and other illegal action in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

c) With regard to the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Meeting *called for* them to adhere to Article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions and to undertake measures to ensure compliance by Israel with the Convention. The obligations of the High Contacting Parties regarding penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties were emphasized. Switzerland was also *called upon* to expedite its consultation, as requested in operative paragraph 7 of resolution ES-10/15, including with regard to reconvening the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention.

13. The Meeting *welcomed* the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 58/292 dated 6 May 2004 on the "Status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East

Jerusalem", and stressed the need for follow-up in ensuring that Israeli credentials to the United Nations do not cover the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem.

14. The Meeting *reaffirmed* its support for a comprehensive peace process, based on relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397(2002) as well as agreed principles, which call for Israel's complete withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the City of AI-Quds Al-Sharif and all other occupied Arab territories. In this context, the Meeting *reiterated* its endorsement of the Arab Peace Initiative as adopted by the Fourteenth Arab Summit, held in Beirut, Lebanon, on 28 March 2002.

15. The Meeting *expressed* the hope that the international community and the Quartet would undertake the necessary efforts to salvage the Road Map and implement its provisions towards its stated aims and goals in accordance with international law. It *expressed* concern at repeated Israeli attempts to evade the Road Map and to substitute it with different steps. In this regard, the Meeting stressed that any Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip should be a full and complete withdrawal, should be accompanied by similar steps in the West Bank, should be part of the Road Map, and should be carried out in full coordination with the Palestinian Authority.

16. The Meeting *reiterated* the proposal endorsed by the OIC and the Non-Aligned-Movement countries to convene, in early 2005, a conference of international and regional organizations on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a view to reaffirming the basic principles for the peaceful settlement of the conflict, and to exploring ways and means of establishing in 2005 an independent Palestinian State on the basis of the 1967 borders living side by side in peace and security with Israel, as stipulated in the Road Map plan.

17. The Meeting *stressed* the need for the OIC at all levels to continue practical support for the Question of Palestine. It *commended* the efforts made by Al-Quds Committee, under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, to safeguard the Arab Islamic identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and it also *commended* the OIC Committee on Palestine for its work. The Meeting *agreed* for the OIC Ministerial Delegation on Palestine be constituted as and when the need arises.

18. The Meeting also strongly *condemned* Israel's policy of refusing to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) concerning the occupied Syrian Golan and its policies of annexation, building of colonial settlements, confiscation of land, diversion of water sources and imposition of Israeli nationality upon Syrian citizens. It also *demanded* Israel to completely withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the June 4th, 1967 lines in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242(1967) and 338(1973), the principle of land for peace, the Madrid Peace Conference terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative, adopted by the Beirut Arab Summit on 28 March 2002.

19. The Meeting *condemned* threats against some Member States, particularly the Syrian Arab Republic, and *condemned* the decision of the United States Administration to impose unilateral economic sanctions against Syria. It also *condemned* the so-called "Syria Accountability Act". It *urged* Member States to further strengthen their brotherly ties with Syria in all fields.

20. The Meeting *supported* Lebanon in its efforts to complete the liberation of all its remaining territories under Israeli occupation including Shab'a farms, and *urged* the United Nations to compel Israel to pay reparations for all the losses it has inflicted, or caused, as a result of its persistent aggression against Lebanon. It further *supported* Lebanon in its demands for the removal of the mines left behind by the Israeli occupation, which planted these mines and therefore bears the responsibility for removing them. It also *supported* the inalienable rights of Lebanon to utilize its waters in accordance with international law and *condemned* Israel's designs on these waters. It *held* Israel responsible for any action such as infringing upon Lebanon's sovereignty, its political independence, the safety of its people, or the integrity of its territories. It demanded the international community to take all necessary measures to compel Israel to immediately release all the remaining Lebanese prisoners and abductees detained in Israeli prisons. It *reaffirmed* the right of the Palestine refugees to return to their homes, and rejected settling them in Lebanon.

21. The Meeting *reaffirmed* the imperative of respect by all for the sovereignty, political independence, national unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. It *emphasized* the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their own political future and effectively control their own natural resources. The Meeting also *welcomed* the announcement by the Iraqi Interim Government to establish good relations between Iraq and its Neighboring States, based on mutual respect and principle of non-interference in their

internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and agreements, particularly those relevant to internationally recognized borders, and invited Iraq and its Neighbouring Countries to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region and prevent illegal border crossing, in line with the Statements issued in the meetings of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq.

22. The Meeting *welcomed* United Nations Security Council resolution 1546 of 8 June 2004, which provided the basis for the ending of the occupation, the formation of a sovereign interim Iraqi government that assumes authority, pending the election of the transitional government, which will assume the responsibility of governance in accordance with the timetable proposed for Iraq's political process. It *noted* with satisfaction the important role assigned to the United Nations under that resolution. The Meeting also *welcomed* the appointment of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq.

23. The Meeting *welcomed* the transfer of authority to the sovereign Interim Government of Iraq on 28 June 2004 and *considered* this a step towards the formation of an elected and fully democratic representative government in Iraq, thereby, enabling the people of Iraq to rule themselves and achieve full sovereignty and stability. The Meeting also *welcomed* the convening of the Iraqi National Conference and *considered* it as a step towards the independence and full sovereignty of Iraq.

24. The Meeting *condemned* the terrorist acts perpetrated against Iraqi people, their places of worship, religious sites, police stations and the governmental institutions, including the health, public utility institutions, and also against diplomatic institutions and diplomats, diplomatic personnel and premises. The Meeting also *underlined* the necessity for all parties, including the multinational forces to respect the civil and religious rights of the Iraqi people, as well as the preservation of the religious sites, and cultural and historical heritage of Iraq.

25. The Meeting *condemned* the inhumane practices and abuses committed against the Iraqi detainees at Abu-Gharaib prison, as well as the other prisons and detention centers in Iraq. It *demanded* that those responsible be tried by appropriate judicial processes that conform to international standards in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions.

26. The Meeting *reaffirmed* the necessity of eliminating all terrorist and other armed groups present and emanating from Iraqi territory which constitute a danger to Iraq and Neighbouring States.

27. The Meeting also strongly *condemned* and *deplored* all acts of kidnapping and assassination directed against Iraqis and other nationals.

28. The Meeting *took note* of the provisions of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and accordingly *urged* the Member States to provide all forms of support and assistance to meet Iraq's needs and facilitate contributions and efforts designed to reactivate its organizational bodies, and economic institutions and infrastructures.

29. The Meeting *condemned* strongly the killing of Kuwaiti and Iranian Prisoners of War and third-country nationals by the former Iraqi regime. The Meeting also *condemned* the concealment of these crimes for over a decade by the former Iraqi regime, which is considered a violation of international humanitarian law. It *called for* the necessity of bringing the perpetrators of these crimes against humanity to trial.

30. The Meeting *condemned* the mass killings of innocent Iraqis by the former regime and considered these as a crime against humanity. The Meeting *demanded* the trial of those responsible and *called upon* Member States and the international community not to provide refuge to officials of the former regime, who have committed such crimes against Iraqis and others.

31. The Meeting *called upon* all the Member States to cooperate and to coordinate their efforts to combat the illegal trade and trafficking in Iraqi antiques, and help return those recovered to the Iraqi museums.

32. The Meeting *welcomed* the adoption of the new Constitution by Afghanistan's Constitutional Grand Assembly (Loya Jirga) on 4 January 2004. It also *welcomed* the efforts of the people and Government of Afghanistan to reconstruct their country.

33. The Meeting *expressed* its hope that the holding of the presidential elections on 9 October 2004 and parliamentarian elections in April 2005 will pave the way towards the restoration of full democracy in Afghanistan.

34. The Meeting *reiterated* its gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar for his initiative in establishing the Afghan People Assistance Fund. It *called on* Member States that have pledged donations to the Fund to expedite the remittance of their donations, and also *appealed* to all other Member States to consider making donations to the Fund. It also *appealed* to the international community to expedite action on their pledges made during the Tokyo Donor Conference of January 2002 and the Berlin Donor Conference held on 31 March-1 April 2004.

35. The Meeting *reaffirmed* its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It *called for* respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and the ending of their continuous violations. It *urged* India to end human rights violations against the Kashmiri people and allow international human rights organizations to verify the condition of human rights in Indian-held Kashmir.

36. The Meeting *noted* Pakistan-India Joint Statement issued on 8 September 2004 at the conclusion of Foreign Minister-level bilateral talks which took place as part of the Composite Dialogue between the two countries. The Meeting *noted* with satisfaction the determination of the two sides to continue with the serious and sustained dialogue to find a peaceful negotiated final settlement of the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. It *expressed* the hope that this process will be serious, substantive and result oriented.

37. The Meeting also *affirmed* its support to several confidence building measures agreed and implemented by Pakistan and India in the last one year. However, the Meeting *expressed* its serious concern on the building of a fence along the Line of Control (LOC) in occupied Kashmir by India in contravention of international and bilateral agreements, which may impede the ongoing normalization process. The Meeting *called upon* India to stop the fencing activity and *requested* the international community particularly the United Nations and UNMOGIP to take note of the Indian actions and to ensure respect and implementation of all international and bilateral agreements on LOC.

38. The Meeting *endorsed* the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It also *took note* of the memorandum presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri People to the Contact Group and *reaffirmed* the OIC's

commitment to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

39. The Meeting *welcomed* the positive development in the negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) that culminated in the signing of the six protocols, which constitute the final framework of the peace agreement to be signed soon. It *urged* the international community to support the agreement and help both parties to implement it. It *called on* the General Secretariat of the OIC to speedily implement resolution 11/10-P (IS) of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference on the Establishment of a Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of War-Stricken Regions in the Sudan. It also *urged* Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and financing institutions of Member States to contribute to the Fund.

40. The Meeting *welcomed* the signing of N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on Darfur. In this connection, it *urged* the parties of N'Djamena Agreement to resume immediately and without conditions talks under the auspices of the African Union in view of concluding political settlement to the crisis.

41. The Meeting also *welcomed* the Joint Communiqué between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 3 July 2004. In this regard it *noted* with appreciation the progress of the humanitarian as well as the security situation in the region. The Meeting *urged* the international community and the donors to provide their assistance to the people in the region.

42. The Meeting *reaffirmed* its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, while reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of the country, consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It *reaffirmed* its support for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) led Somali National Reconciliation Conference, *welcomed* the successful inauguration of the transitional federal parliament on 22 August 2004 and *commended* IGAD leaders and in particular the Government of Kenya for their efforts. The Meeting *welcomed* the statement by the UN Secretary-General on 22 August 2004 expressing the readiness of the United Nations to continue supporting the peace process in Somalia. The Meeting *called upon* the Somali parties to

expedite the process of completing the transitional federal government, and *reiterated* that the Somali parties should abide by and implement expeditiously the Eldorat Declaration on the Cessation of Hostilities and to scrupulously comply with the Security Council Monitoring Group. It *welcomed* the decision of the African Union (AU) to speed up preparations for the deployment of an AU Military Observer Mission, and *called upon* the international community to recognize and support the new government to emerge and to continue their contributions to the UN Funds for Somalia.

43. The Meeting *expressed* satisfaction with the major developmental and humanitarian activities of the OIC Funds for Bosnia and Herzegovina and for Sierra Leone in furtherance of the spirit of solidarity and cooperation within the Islamic World. It *urged* Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the Funds and make use of them when it comes to implementing their projects meant for Bosnia and Herzegovina and for Sierra Leone.

44. The Meeting *recalled* the UN Security Council's resolution 1506 of 12 September 2003 to finally lift sanctions imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and called for the lifting of the remaining unilateral sanctions imposed on the Jamahiriya as a means of political coercion that contravenes UN resolutions.

45. The Meeting *called on* those States that have imposed arbitrary or unilateral political, legal, economic and other measures upon any OIC Member States to end such measures as they contravene the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter and of the international law.

46. The Meeting *reiterated* its condemnation of the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter and international law. It *called for* total, unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the occupation forces of Armenia from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The Meeting *demanded* from Armenia to implement fully all provisions of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of 1993.

47. The Meeting *reiterated* the necessity to put an end to Armenian illegal settlement processes and other activities carried out in the occupied Azerbaijani territories. It *urged* all Member States to continue strengthening their solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan and supporting its just cause. To this end, the Member States agreed to

extend their full support to endeavours of Azerbaijan aimed at utilizing the potential of the United Nations, including through the cooperation of the latter with relevant regional international organizations, to achieve soonest restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

48. The Meeting *expressed* firm support for the rightful cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots; *reiterated* its support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General under his Mission of Good Offices, and hailing their affirmative vote on 24th April 2004 for the UN Settlement Plan which fundamentally changed the circumstances in Cyprus, *decided* to put an end within the context of the call made by the UN Secretary-General in his report of 28 May 2004 to the unjust isolation of Turkish Cypriots. Through resolution 2/31-P adopted by the 31st Session of the ICFM on 16 June 2004, the Meeting *welcomed* the willingness of the Turkish side for a peaceful settlement of the issue, emphasizing the equal political status of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides. Recalling that the UN Plan aimed to establish a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new bi-zonal partnership with two equal constituent states, it *acknowledged* that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other, and that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. The Meeting *urged* Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots with a view to helping them materially and politically and to increase and expand their relations in all fields and, in particular direct transport, trade, tourism, culture, information, investment and sports contacts. In this context, it also *called upon* the international community to take immediate concrete steps aimed at ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots.

49. The Meeting *reaffirmed* the imperative of promoting multilateral diplomacy in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns, and, in this context, *underlined* that multilateral institutions established under the auspices of the United Nations are the sole legitimate bodies to verify and ensure compliance with relevant international agreements.

50. The Meeting, while noting the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 of 28 April 2004, whose scope is limited to preventing the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors, *underscored* that this was a temporary arrangement to fill a gap in international rules. It also *underlined* that the Security Council cannot assume responsibilities for non-proliferation including by making treaty obligations or legislating rules for Member States, since those states which seek to perpetuate the monopoly of nuclear weapons also wield the power of the

veto in the Council. In this regard, the Meeting *called for* concluding a non-discriminatory and universally negotiated international treaty on the threat of WMD proliferation by non-state actors which should replace the temporary arrangements assumed by the Security Council under resolution 1540.

51. The Meeting *urged* all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking practical and urgent steps required for implementing the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and *warned* against the dire consequences of the continuing rejection of Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under the full scope of the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In this regard, the Meeting *supported* the draft resolution submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Security Council on 29 December 2003 regarding the establishment of a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and *called upon* the Security Council to act positively on the draft to achieve that lofty goal in the region.

52. The Meeting *welcomed* the Islamic Republic of Iran's signing of the Additional Protocol of the IAEA Guarantees Agreements and its continued cooperation with the Agency. It *recognized* the inalienable right of all Members States, including the Islamic Republic of Iran to develop its nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Statute of the IAEA.

53. The Meeting *reaffirmed* its resolve to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism, including state terrorism, and its determination to participate in the multilateral global efforts to eradicate this menace, *rejected* selectivity and double standards in combating terrorism, and any attempts to link terrorism to a specific religion or culture. It also *reiterated* its support for the convening of an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations to define terrorism and stress the need for efforts to be exerted to conclude a convention on international terrorism that would differentiate between terrorism and legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law. The Meeting *reaffirmed that* situations of foreign occupation are governed by international humanitarian law and not by conventions on terrorism. It also *called upon* all Member States, who have not done so, to take the necessary steps towards the ratification of the OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism.

54. The Meeting *recalled* the decisions adopted by the Thirteenth Summit of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), and the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Maputo (Mozambique), regarding Tunisia's proposal to elaborate by consensus an international counter-terrorism code of conduct within the framework of the United Nations. The Meeting *endorsed* this initiative and appealed to all Member States of the United Nations and international organizations to support it and contribute to its realization when it is tabled before the United Nations General Assembly.

55. The Meeting *stressed* the importance of enhancing the solidarity and cohesion in the voting patterns at the United Nations organs on issues of mutual concern to the OIC Member States in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the OIC Summits and Ministerial Conferences.

56. The Meeting *called* for evolving common perceptions and agreed approaches to address both the new and existing threats to international peace and security in the context of multilateralism. In this regard, while underscoring that the process of UN reform should not take place at the expense of UN principles, the Meeting *emphasized* the need for cooperative multilateralism to pursue and promote UN Charter principles. The Meeting *reiterated* the OIC's stance in support of the principle of the United Nations reform, including the expansion of the Security Council's membership, in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, and taking into consideration the principles of sovereign equality of all States and the need to ensure equitable geographic distribution. It also *called for* a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects so as to make it more democratic, representative, transparent and accountable. The Meeting *declared* that any reform proposal, which neglects the adequate representation of the Islamic Ummah in any category of members in an expanded Security Council will not be acceptable to the Islamic countries.

57. The Meeting *expressed* its determination to vigorously pursue the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and *encouraged* greater transparency, cooperation, mutual tolerance and respect for religious values and cultural diversity in the field of universal promotion and protection of human rights. It *recalled* General Assembly resolution 58/167 of 22 December 2003 on human rights and cultural diversity, which emphasized that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance at the national, regional and international levels is important for enhancing

respect for cultural rights and cultural diversity. It also *reiterated* the necessity of following up on the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, and *called upon* all the Member States to continue their coordination and cooperation in the area of human rights in the relevant international fora with the view to enhance Islamic solidarity in confronting attempts to use human rights as a means to politically pressurize any of the Member States.

58. The Meeting *stressed* the need to implement the Plan of Action of Phase I of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva (December 2003), to help the Republic of Tunisia to organize efficiently Phase II of the Summit (November 2005), and to contribute effectively to its preparatory meetings, which are scheduled for 2004-2005, so that Member States' efforts to prepare related documents can be coordinated.

59. The Meeting *called on* the Follow-up Committee of the Sixth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers to meet and draft a charter for the information society and an action plan that would be submitted in the name of Member States at Phase II of the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunisia 2005).

60. The Meeting *reaffirmed* the need to strengthen the role and capacity of the United Nations system to assist developing countries to achieve the internationally-agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

61. The Meeting *emphasized* the need for the promotion of the *new global human order* aimed at reversing the growing disparity between the rich and poor, both among and within countries through, inter alia, the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development, and the realization of the just aspirations of all peoples.

62. The Meeting *reiterated* that the pursuance of sustainable development should be the priority of all countries through the implementation of all internationally-agreed development goals and objectives at all levels, including those contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration, and the Brussels Programme of Action and *stressed* that the multilateral trading and financial systems should be open, equitable, rule-based, non-discriminatory and sensitive to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) situation. In this context, it *urged* the international community to facilitate the accession of those OIC Member States that seek to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) on fair terms, irrespective of political considerations.

63. The Meeting *welcomed* the high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly to be convened in 2005 to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfilment of all commitments contained in the internationally agreed development goals, including the UN Millennium Declaration, and the global partnership required for their achievement, and of the progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation, at national, regional and international levels, of the outcomes and commitments of major UN conferences and summits in economic, social and related fields, as mandated by UN General Assembly resolution 58/291 adopted on 6 May 2004.

64. The Meeting *recalled* the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the "Prevention of Armed Conflict", which reaffirmed the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the need to bring an end to situations of foreign occupation as a commitment by the international community to promote the culture of conflict prevention.

65. The Meeting *called on* United Nations Member States for the full implementation of the resolutions and the decisions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concerning the return of cultural properties to the peoples who were or still under colonial rule or foreign occupation. It also *stressed* the need for UNESCO to identify the stolen or illegally exported cultural properties in accordance with the relevant conventions on the subject. It *emphasized* the need to expedite the process of returning these properties to their countries of origin, in compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. It further *emphasized* the right of the Islamic countries to maintain and conserve their national heritage, as it constitutes the foundation of the cultural identity of these countries.

66. The Meeting *expressed* appreciation and satisfaction for the performance of the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations in New York in discharging its duties in conformity with the resolutions of the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.

67. The Meeting *adopted* the reports issued by:

1- The Six-Member Committee on Palestine.
2- The Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir
3- The Ad-Hoc Committee on Afghanistan
4- The Contact Group on Sierra Leone.
5- The Contact Group on Somalia.